

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AEC-05 AID-05 FEAE-00 EB-04

INT-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 /101 W

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R 141605Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0233

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 3612

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9182

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FPR, EG, UR, IS, US

SUBJECT: FAHMY POLICY STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT

SUMMARY: FAHMY POLICY STATEMENT TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY NOV 13 STRESSED CANAL REOPENING IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL ISRAELI FORCES WITHDRAW FURTHER EAST. ISRAELI FLAGSHIPS WILL BE BARRED UNTIL "FINAL SOLUTION" TO ME PROBLEM IS REACHED. GENEVA WILL RECONVENE IN FEB IF GOI RECOGNIZES NECESSITY OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. QUADRIPARTITE MEETING WILL OCCUR FIRST WEEK DECEMBER. AHAM ACCOUNT STRESSES FAHMY REMARKS WHICH IMPLY GOE PROBLEMS WITH USG AND NEW SOVIET ROLE IN ME AFTER BREZHNEV VISIT. IN ANTICIPATION SARG OBJECTION TO ANY FURTHER MOVEMENT ON EGYPTIAN FRONT ONLY, FAHMY MAY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PORTRAY FURTHER SINAI WITHDRAWAL AS DIPLOMATIC VICTORY FOR ALL ARABS. END SUMMARY

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1. FONMIN FAHMY NOV 13 ADDRESSED JOINT MEETING OF ARAB AF-

FAIRS AND FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEES OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY.
ACCORDING TO MENA ARABIC TEXT HIGHLIGHTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A) SUEZ CANAL - "CANAL WILL NOT BE REOPENED TO ORDINARY NAVIGATION UNTIL THERE IS COMPLETE (OR "SUFFICIENT"?) RECEDING OF ISRAELI FORCES EAST OF CANAL TO SAFEGUARD NAVIGATION IN CANAL AND TO SAFEGUARD THE SUEZ CANAL TOWNS AGAINST LIGHTNING ISRAELI AGGRESSION." (COMMENT: A) ARABIC WORD FOR "SUFFICIENT" IS TYPED OVER WORD FOR "COMPLETE" IN MENA DISPATCH. B) FAHMY, INSTEAD OF USING NORMAL WORD FOR "WITHDRAWAL", I.E., "INSIHAB" CHOSE "INHISAR" WHICH MEANS RECEDING OR EBBING. IT IS A WORD WHICH WOULD NEVER BE USED IN ORDINARY SPEECH IN CONTEXT WITH TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND MUST, THEREFORE, HAVE BEEN CHOSEN ADVISEDLY. C) AKHBAR TEXT SUBSTITUTES "INSIDE SINAI" FOR "EAST OF CANAL". END COMMENT)

FAHMY REPORTEDLY ADDED: "ISRAELI FLAG WILL NOT PASS THROUGH CANAL UNTIL A FINAL SOLUTION HAS BEEN REACHED TO ME PROBLEM." REFERRING TO CONSTANTINOPLE TREATY, HE SAID "WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFEGUARDING NAVIGATION THROUGH THE CANAL BECAUSE IT IS UNIMAGINABLE THAT SHIPS SHOULD PASS THROUGH CANAL WHEN THERE IS CONTINUED THREAT OF AGGRESSION AGAINST THEM." (COMMENT: AKHBAR TEXT SAYS ISRAELI FLAG WILL NOT PASS THROUGH CANAL "UNTIL STATE OF WAR" WITH ISRAEL "IS OVER".)

B) GOE/USG RELATIONS - ACCORDING TO AHAM'S REPORT FAHMY SEEMS TO HAVE STRESSED PROBLEMS CONFRONTING GOE/USG RELATIONS. HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S FACED PROBLEMS AFTER RABAT AND THAT HE OFFERED NO SPECIFIC PROPOSAL ON HIS LAST TRIP. CONGRESS, FAHMY REPORTEDLY ADDED, WANTED TO CUT USG ASSISTANCE FROM \$250 MILLION TO \$50 MILLION AND TRIED TO POSTPONE APPROVAL UNTIL NEXT YEAR. PRESIDENT FORD, HOWEVER, EXERTED PRESSURE TO HAVE BILL APPROVED FOR \$250 MILLION AFTER NOVEMBER ELECTIONS.

C) NUCLEAR REACTORS - "EGYPT WILL GET REACTORS EITHER FROM US, USSR OR FRANCE. THERE IS NO RENEGING ON AGREEMENT SIGNED BY NIXON, INCLUDING THAT COVERING REACTORS".

D) GENEVA CONFERENCE - CONFERENCE IS EXPECTED TO BE HELD IN
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FEBURARY "PROVIDING ISRAEL REALIZES PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IS ONLY MEANS TO PEACE IN ME". AHAM, IMPLYING NEW SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN SETTLEMENT PROCESS, ADDS: CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN FEBRUARY "AFTER BREZHNEV VISIT TO CAIRO".

E) QUADRIPARTITE CONFERENCE - GOE/SARG/GOJ/PALESTINIAN COORDINATION CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD DURING FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER.

F) GOE/USSR RELATIONS - AS NOTED ABOVE, AHRAM SEEMED TO STRESS DIFFICULTIES FACING USG/GOE RELATIONS. AHRAM ALSO UNIQUELY REPORTED FAHMY AS MAKING FOLLOWING REMARKS: USSR/GOE RELATIONS EXIST IN MORE FIELDS THAN DO GOE/USG RELATIONS. EGYPT EXPECTS MORE SOVIET SUPPORT FOR ITS STAND AFTER BREZHNEV VISIT.

2. COMMENT: A) AHRAM'S COVERAGE OF FAHMY'S STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES DIFFERS SO MUCH IN EMPHASIS AND CONTENT THAT OUR EGYPTIAN POLITICAL ASSISTANT WAS MOVED TO REMARK THAT ONE WOULD THINK HAYKAL IS BACK AT THE HELM. THE PREVIOUS DAY IN COURSE OF AHRAM'S LEADING ARTICLE ON ALLEGED GOE MESSAGE TO GOE WARNING THAT US FACES UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY POSITIVE ROLE IN ME, THERE WAS ALSO ALLEGED LETTER FROM KING FAISAL TO PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY WARNING OF RE-IMPOSITION OF OIL EMBARGO. RE-READING TEXT OF ARTICLE, WE BELIEVE SECTION ON FAISAL'S MESSAGE WAS WRITTEN IN CAIRO, AND WAS NOT PART OF DISPATCH FROM AHRAM STAFFER IN NEW YORK. IN SHORT, AHRAM FOR LAST TWO DAYS HAS NOT BEEN HELPFUL.

B) FAHMY'S DECISION TO MAKE STATEMENT ON SUEZ CANAL AT THIS JUNCTURE MAY BE OPENING SHOT OF GOE EFFORT TO PORTRAY ANY FURTHER ISRAELI TROOP "RECESSION" IN SINAI AS MAJOR ARAB VICTORY, THUS HOPEFULLY STYMIEING ANY EFFORT BY ASAD TO CRY FOUL AND ACCUSE EGYPT OF DEFEATISM AND UN-ARAB BEHAVIOR BY AGREEING TO MOVEMENT ON EGYPTIAN FRONT ONLY. PERHAPS, TOO, ISRAELI PRESS SPECULATION OF LAST SEVERAL DAYS, REGARDING ALLEGED EGYPTIAN DEMAND FOR FURTHER SINAI WITHDRAWAL AND ALLEGED ISRAELI INSISTANCE ON PRIOR CANAL REOPENING TEL AVIV 6555) MAY HAVE WEIGHED IN FAHMY'S DECISION TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT ON LINKAGE OF CANAL AND SINAI, AN ISSUE WHICH IS EXTREMELY DELICATE BOTH IN TERMS OF INTER-ARAB CONFIDENCE AND EGYPTIAN DOMESTIC PUBLIC OPINION.

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